GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1257
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
RESERVATION OF FOLK CULTURE
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various folk cultures are on the extinction;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to keep them alive;

(c) whether the Government is aware that many folk artists of Indian Culture are on the verge of starvation;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering any specific scheme to safeguard these folk artists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) Yes, there are a few art forms which are on the verge of extinction.

(b) The purpose of establishing Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) was to preserve and promote the such folk art form in their respective Zones. In addition to this, ZCCs organize a number of Cultural Programmes to provide the folk artists a platform to perform and also obtain financial support for various artists living in remote areas.

(c) Government have not received such information.

(d) & (e) : Government of India has taken up Schemes such as Guru Shishya Parampara, Theatre Rejuvenation, Young Talented Artists and National Cultural Exchange Programme through various ZCCs and cultural organizations to safeguard the folk artists. Since inception of ZCCs, these Centres organize various programmes/schemes for the benefit of folk artists. About 2500 performing artists are being benefited by each ZCC every year through our programmes. This is besides a number of craftsmen who get opportunities through its various programmes being conducted throughout the year.